External Affairs and senior officials. The Sri Lankan delegation consisted of Mr. Gamini Dissanayake, Minister for lands and Mahaweli Development, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, Minister for National Security and senior officials. These talks covered areas of mutual interest, especially questions relating to the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. The recurring complaint of colonisation was among the subjects discussed.

Discussions with Sri Lankan President

3086. SHRI T. R. BALU:

SHR V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:,

(a) how many rounds of talks were held with the President of Sri Lanka when he visited India as a State Guest for the Republic Day Celebra tions; and

(b) what subjects were taken in the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Two rounds of talks were held with President layewardene.

(b) These talks covered areas of mutual interest, especially questions relating to the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement.

Appeal by Late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for Ceasefire in Sri Lanka

3087. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

SHRI T. R. BALU:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any appeal was made by the late Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri M. G. Ramachandran to the Prime Minister to declare a ceasefire for the second time in the IPKF operations in Sri Lanka for the Christmas; and

(b) whether any such appeal was also made from any other quarter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH):

(a) No, Sir. (b)

Yes, Sir.

Class-I Officers in Government services

3088. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Class-I Officers serving in various Ministries of the Government of India till January 31st, 1988;

(b) the total number of such officers who have not yet been promoted' alongwith the length of their service; and

(c) by when these officerr will be given promotion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c)' There are about 70, 000 Group 'A' officers under various' Departments and Ministries of the Government of India. No Centralised information relating to their placement, promotions and transfers is maintained.

Promotions are not made i_n terms of number of years of service alone rendered by the officers, but according to the number of vacancies available in higher grades from time to time in the respective cadres. The system of cadre reviews which has been made more regular takes into constitution th_e need for creating higher posts after assessing the job requirements.